

THE DEATH'S-HEAD HAWKMOTH AND OTHER IMMIGRANTS IN WARWICKSHIRE IN 1980. — Singletons of the Hummingbird Hawkmoth, *Macroglossum stellatarum* L., appeared at Charlecote on June 15th, 17th, 22nd, 25th, 27th, 29th, July 2nd and 25th, mainly at valerian flowers; a male of the Vestal, *Rhodometra sacraria* L. was taken at Charlecote at m.v.l., by Mr. D. Brown on September 20th; at Marton, a female Scarce Bordered Straw, *Heliothis armigera* Hbn. occurred at Mr. G. Robson's m.v.l. on September 21st; and a male Gem, *Ortho-*nama obstipata** F. appeared in my m.v. trap here at Charlecote on October 26th. Finally, on September 28th, Mr. J. Beards noted his cat playing with a large moth in his drive at Southam, which he rescued and gave to me; it is a female Death's-Head Hawkmoth, *Acherontia atropos* L., in remarkably good condition considering. — A. F. J. GARDNER, Willows End, 29, Charlecote, nr. Warwick.

A FURTHER NOTE ON DONACIA VERSICOLOREA (BRAHM) (COL.: CHRYSOMELIDAE). — Following the note by A. A. Allen (*Ent. Record* 92: 152) on the later occurrence in the year of this species, than most other members of the genus, I can add a further sighting for September; on 14.ix.1980 at Goonhilly Downs, Cornwall, I saw both sexes of *D. versicolore*a in abundance, on the leaves of *Potamogeton natans*, in a shallow pool on the moorland. Other sightings were single specimens on 18.viii.80 and 20.viii.80, in the same area though in different pools.

In addition, one of the specimens taken on 14.ix.80, a male, has an unusual deformation of the left meso-thoracic leg, in having a split or double tibia forming a 'V' shape; a malformation no doubt rare in the group. — A. P. FOSTER, Ladn Vean, Mawnan Smith, Falmouth, Cornwall, TR11 5ES.

COLEOPHORA LASSELLA STAUD. IN CORNWALL. — In June 1977 I took part in a Nature Conservancy Council survey of the Lizard, Cornwall, On 15th June at Predannack Airfield I took a specimen of a *Coleophora* which I could not identify at the time. I disturbed it on a dull morning from an area which to the best of my recollection consisted mainly of long grass with some *Pulicaria dysenterica*.

It is only now that I have identified this as female *Coleophora lassella* Staud. This appears to be the first Cornish record of a species which has been found in only a few localities in England. — R. J. HECKFORD, 67, Newnham Rd., Plympton, Plymouth, Devon.

OBSERVATIONS ON DR. HORTON'S NOTE. — I read Dr. Neil Horton's note in the June issue of the *Record* with interest, particularly his reference to his finding *Apamea oblonga* Haw. in a reed bed near the Severn in Monmouthshire. This same insect occurs fairly commonly round a reed bed much further up the Severn at Frampton on Severn in Gloucestershire. All the specimens are of the smooth unmarked form. I presume that the reed bed plays no part in

its distribution, but was the attraction to the entomologist to place his MV light here and so draw *oblonga* from its habitat among the grasses at the edge of the tidal estuary. The Frampton on Severn isolated reed bed of 1½ acres is a good spot for Wainscotes and carries populations of *Leucania straminea* Treit., *Nonagria dissoluta* Treit. and *Chilodes maritima* Tausch.

The author is not right about Magor Reserve being the only locality to the west of Offa's Dyke for the Water Ermine (*Spilosoma urticae* Esp.). I took it commonly in Borth Bog on June 18th 1960. Not in the southern sweet gale section known for *Eurgrappe subrosea* Stephens, but in the northern part which is dense reed bed. *Panaxia dominula* Linn. occurs at the same time, *Mythimna turca* Linn. a few weeks later. Incidentally, I noted in my diary for that date "This marsh may well contain rarities". Little did I know that if, instead of putting an MV light among the reeds I had examined the sweet gale with a Tilly lamp, I might have spotted the first *subrosea* larvae seen for a hundred years. — R. P. DEMUTH, Watercombe House, Oakridge, Glos. GL6 7PN.

IMMIGRANT LEPIDOPTERA IN 1980 IN SOUTH WESTMORLAND AND NORTH LANCASHIRE. — The first sign of migrants here was 8th June, when in showery weather two *Cynthia cardui* L. and several *Autographa gamma* L. appeared in my garden, and the following morning the number of *gamma* at m.v.l. had escalated to 22 from the past week's nightly average of three. On 10th June, five *Nomophila noctuella* D. & S. suddenly appeared in the trap, and the same night four *Udea ferrugalis* Hbn. entered Mr. C. Scott's moth trap at Arnside, two miles away. A single *Agrotis ipsilon* Hufn. on the 14th, followed by a reliable report of a *Colias croceus* Geoff. seen at Sunderland Point near Lancaster that week, and the small spate of migrants appeared to have passed by. The indications of a *cardui* year were fulfilled in August and September when, despite bad weather, it was far more plentiful than for many years past. On 31st August Mr. John Wilson, warden of the R.S.P.B. Reserve at Leighton Moss, Silverdale, counted 138 on the Reserve, which were not seen to be moving in any particular direction. That some of the species had bred in the district was proved by the finding of pupae on Arnside Knott in September, by a Research student working for the National Trust.

Mr. W. Kydd informed me of the sighting of three *C. croceus* near Ulverston, N. Cumbria in late August. This prompted us to look out for the species in this district, and sure enough on 1st September, Mr. J. Leedal photographed one at rest on a flower head, on a disused railway embankment in Lancaster, and three more were seen in the same locality on 2nd September and one on the 4th, all by the same observer. On 26th September, Mr. J. Whitehouse boxed a large female *croceus* at rest on a roadside hedge at Hoghton near Blackburn. It is more than twenty years since so many *croceus* were recorded in these parts. *Vanessa atalanta* L. was also fairly